



DECAL Stakeholder Network: Child Care Services Advisory Committee November 16, 2012



Bobby Cagle, MSW
Commissioner

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning



Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

Bobby Cagle, MSW, Commissioner



Agenda

- Welcome
- DECAL Updates and Priorities
- Georgia's Quality Rated and Improvement System (QRIS)
- Child Care Services Updates
- Wrap Up and Next Steps

Your Feedback



- What is DECAL doing well?
- What is DECAL doing that could be improved?
- What is DECAL not doing that we should be doing?



DECAL Priorities



- Health and Safety
- Quality Early Education
Leading to increased
school readiness
- Communication





Georgia's systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early education and school-age care programs.

Quality Rated



WHAT? A tiered quality rating and improvement system (TQRIS) is a systemic approach to assess, improve, and communicate the level of quality in early care and education (ECE) programs.

WHY? Findings from studies of child care quality conducted independent of DECAL by FPG Child Development Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill, indicate **WHY Georgia needs a TQRIS:**

- Over 3/4 of family day care homes in Georgia were scored as "low quality."
- Over 2/3 of infant/toddler care classrooms were scored as "low quality."
- Over 1/3 of preschool (non Georgia Pre-K) classrooms were scored as "low quality."



Quality Rated: Conceived through Collaboration



HOW? In September 2006, Georgia stakeholders began gathering to design a systemic approach to enhancing the quality of Georgia's early care and education system.

DECAL facilitated a discussion that included diverse voices to inform the development of a TQRIS in Georgia.

Stakeholders included:

**ECE Providers
Advocacy Groups
Foundations
Head Start
School Systems
State Agencies**

**Resource & Referral Agencies
Provider Associations
Higher Education
Child Care Chains
Faith-based Providers
Parents**



Quality Rated Eligibility



- All child care providers (family day care homes, group day care homes, child care learning centers, afterschool programs, and faith-based programs)
- All Pre-K providers (public school and private providers)
- Military child care programs licensed by the Department of Defense and Georgia's Pre-K Programs operated by local Boards of Education
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Licensed for a minimum of 12 months
 - Compliant with licensing, Pre-K and Nutrition
 - Professional Development Registry



Quality Rated Program Standards

**Staff
Qualifications**

**Child Health,
Nutrition, and
Physical
Activity**

**Family
Partnerships**

**Intentional
Learning
Practices**

**Ratio and
Group Size
Requirements**

Quality Rated Supports

- **Technical Assistance**
 - On-site Coaching
 - Professional Development
 - Baseline environment rating scale assessment leads to targeted technical assistance (TA) plan
- **Incentive Packages**
 - \$500 Portfolio Submission
 - \$1,000 for Materials/Equipment for programs in TA
- **Bonus Packages**
 - Based on level awarded
 - Designed to support program in reaching next level
- **Tiered reimbursement for subsidized child care, July 2013**

Quality Rated Help Desk
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. 1-855-800-7747

Quality Rated Participation



As of November 13, 2012, 1,046 programs have applied to participate in Quality Rated.

- **411** programs with Georgia's Pre-K Program classes
- in 125 of Georgia's 159 counties

Serving 76,488 children

- 1,961 children with disabilities
- 3,691 Dual language learners
- 50 children of migrant workers
- 932 children living in foster homes
- 289 children who are homeless
- **11,962** children receiving child care subsidies (CAPS)
- 10,206 children receiving PeachCare





Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning

**Kay Hellwig, Assistant Commissioner
Child Care Services**



Verification of Lawful Presence



- Georgia law (O.C.G.A. § 50-36-1) requires everyone who applies for a public benefit to verify their eligibility to receive the benefit before it's issued.
- Eligibility is determined by verifying applicant's lawful presence in the United States.
- The licenses and registrations issued by Bright from the Start are considered a public benefit.



Verification of Lawful Presence (continued)



- Bright from the Start must verify that the applicant/owner on behalf of the child care facility is lawfully present in the U.S. before issuing the 2013 license or registration.
- Bright from the Start may not issue a license to anyone who isn't lawfully present in the U.S.



License Fee Process 2012-2013



- Effective November 1, 2012, license fees may be paid (if verification of lawful presence is complete).
- On December 1, 2012, license fees are due.
- December 31, 2012 is the end of the 30 day grace period to pay license fee without a late fee.
- As of January 1, 2013, a late fee applies to any license fee paid this day or later.
- Effective February 1, 2013, the revocation process begins if license fees and late fees are not paid.
- License fees may not be paid until the verification process is complete.



Credential Rule



- Effective December 1, 2012 all directors and lead teachers in child care centers and group day care homes must have one of the following credentials;
 - Technical Certificate of Credit
 - Child Development Associate (CDA)
 - College course work
 - AA degree
 - Other Credentials



Improvement Plans



- The lead teacher is enrolled in a credential program.
- The director is enrolled in a credential program.
- All other lead teachers employed before 12-1-12 who do not have an education credential as required by the rules.
- Lead teacher has completed the TCC course work and is waiting on the certificate or the CDA training and is waiting for the observation.



Waivers



- Other comparable credentials not listed in the rule requirements.
- Lead teacher was employed with the child care program before 12-1-12, and has 7 or more years continuous experience teaching in child care program(s). Teacher meets licensing training requirements for current year.
- Child care programs may submit a waiver request for other situations where they believe the rule should be waived.



Your Feedback



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- What is DECAL doing that could be improved?
- What is DECAL not doing that we should be doing?



Contact Information



For more information, contact:

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